Make Space: How to Set the Stage for Creative Collaboration

David Kelley , Scott Doorley , Scott Witthoft , Hasso Plattner Institute of Design at Stanford University

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"If you are determined to encourage creativity and provide acollaborative environment that will bring out the best in people, you will want this book by your side at all times."
--Bill Moggridge, Director of the Smithsonian'sCooper-Hewitt National Design Museum "*Make Space* is an articulate account about theimportance of space; how we think about it, build it and thrive init."
--James P. Hackett, President and CEO, Steelcase

An inspiring guidebook filled with ways to alter space tofuel creative work and foster collaboration.

Based on the work at the Stanford University d.school and itsEnvironments Collaborative Initiative, *MakeSpace* is a tool that shows how space can be intentionallymanipulated to ignite creativity. Appropriate for designers chargedwith creating new spaces or anyone interested in revamping anexisting space, this guide offers novel and non-obvious strategiesfor changing surroundings specifically to enhance the ways in whichteams and individuals communicate, work, play--and innovate.

Inside are:
Tools--tips on how to build everything from furniture, towall treatments, and rigging
Situations--scenarios, and layouts for sparking creativeactivities
Insights--bite-sized lessons designed to shortcut yourlearning curve
Space Studies--candid stories with lessons on creatingspaces for making, learning, imagining, and connecting
Design Template--a framework for understanding, planning, and building collaborative environments

Make Space is a new and dynamic resource for activatingcreativity, communication and innovation across institutions, corporations, teams, and schools alike. Filled with tips andinstructions that can be approached from a wide variety ofangles, *Make Space* is a ready resource forempowering anyone to take control of an environment.

Make Space: How to Set the Stage for Creative Collaboration Details

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From Reader Review Make Space: How to Set the Stage for Creative Collaboration for online ebook

Duane says

As someone that works in a collaborative workspace, this book was a real game-changer. A synergistic ecosystem pivot. A way to think that's different. I can't wait to apply my learnings. On a slightly less snarky note, there were lots of cool designs for using everyday materials for brilliant solutions in co-working spaces.

Diana says

This book, created by the Stanford d.school, is an amazing source of design inspiration. While it tends to be geared more towards open office spaces and college environments, there's plenty of ideas and resources for educators as well. Make Space tells the d.school's story - it's need for flexibility and economy when being shuffled all over campus, what worked and didn't work for their collaborative spaces, and how they finally figured out how to get it right.

Interspersed throughout the book are projects and action steps that you can take to immediately change your space. There's so many practical ideas, and the stories throughout the book give you a better sense of what students need in collaborative spaces, even if they don't know it themselves. I would highly recommend this book to anyone looking to change up their learning or work space.

Allison says

Scott Doorley and Scott Witthoft are engineers and professors at Stanford University who wrote this book. They have been at the forefront of the makerspace movement since 2007 and developed an insightful, research-based book about how to incorporate makerspace, hack space, fabLabs into classrooms, businesses, and workspaces. The wisdom they have to impart is valuable for everyone, especially those who want to make the most functional, innovative space available to collaboration. They share tons of tools such as DIY furniture, lighting, and collaboration techniques. They developed the IDEO and d.school there for the expression of cultural values and they value innovation as a "team sport". They experiment with how space plays a pivotal role. Its development is based on actual interactions and applications with their students and their curriculum in the educational setting and developed this kind of space and how it has changed the way people think, collaborate, and create. This is a great read and a game changer.

Susan Cosden says

Great book for thinking about designing learning/meeting/collaborating spaces and the materials in them.

Nathanael Coyne says

An excellent resource for thinking about, planning and setting up spaces that encourage participation, collaboration and creativity. Everything from design and creative process "templates" through to DIY woodwork construction of tables and office furniture for mobile set-up/take-down areas, writing, sticking up. Lots of illustrations, photos and stories that will inspire!

Kathy Gorski says

I recommend this often to anyone looking to develop a makerspace in their schools. GREAT ideas (many we have used easily and successfully). Unless you are tapped into a mega-donor, this book is essential for how to engage in making without the superfund to do it.

Jonathan Cassie says

An inspiring and well organized assortment of ideas to pump up existing design learning spaces or make new ones. I will be referring back to this book for a long time.

Erwin says

Very inspiring book full of lessons from experimental/ iterative creative space design at d.school. Besides many insights, situations to design for and space studies there's build instructions for DIY furniture. I just wish the instructions where a bit more specific or detailed, because I feel like building better workspace(s) now.

Manuel Frias says

This book is plenty with ideas to reorganize your work place. Some are cool. Some seem useful for making a more creative use of the space. But, maybe I am too conservative or I think my organization is. The fact is that I find most of them very difficult to carry them out.

I think this book might be useful to new start-ups or organizations with a highly creative people. Most of the ideas would find a hard resistance to apply in rather bureaucratic organizations like mine, I'm afraid.

Dudee says

Libraries and many corporations are transforming some of their traditional office or public space into this "collaborative" or "maker" space right now. If you are on one of the teams to evaluate/design/implement such a project, be sure you and your team has this book. There is something for everyone involved in

creating and operating a collaborative space in this book.

The authors are faculty members of the Design Institute of Stanford (d.school). This book is like a combination of manual and "lessons-learned" from its own experiences of moving several times within a handful of years. The design of this book is also unique. Like a reference book, it is not designed to read from beginning to end; on the other hand, it is not like an encyclopedia where entries are arranged from A-Z. There are five types of entries: tools, situations, design templates, space studies, and insights. Each entry occupies either one or two pages, related entries are listed at the end. So an entry on space studies can have a couple "links" to insights; and situations have links to tools or design templates.

Tools and design templates are very useful to the designers and people who will actually build components of the space. The insights, space studies and situations can give the non-architect/non-designers on the team background concepts and ideas. An example is the space study on TED conference: more than the 18-munite presentation style, the TED conference calls for a total collaborative environment. So the design idea is "a network of places intended to connect people based on different behaviors." So there are large auditorium as well as small lounges, some for people who would take notes or blog with keyboards, while other spaces encourage people to talk while listen. The 45-minue brakes are also designed for audience to exchange comments, thus create a sense of belonging rather than shorter breaks making attendees hurrying to the next session. I have not been to any big conferences during the last couple of years, I wonder how much of these space ideas have been adopted by other conferences.

The pathos of this book, and for designing collaborative space are "collaborate across boundaries", "show, don't tell", and "bias toward action." But the authors also emphasize "balance", any of the insights or principles are "robust enough to be defended, but not so precious that cannot be re-evaluated." For example, their idea of bias toward action does not meat to not-thinking; what is important is reflections after action, evaluate and gain deeper understanding of the problem and solution.

My library has gone through a major remodeling five years ago (2010), and a minor upgrade last year (2015). Reading this book, I find myself thinking, "Oh, this is what we did right," or "Wish I had known this sooner." Highly recommend this book.

Sarah says

I wasn't too impressed with this book when I first thumbed through it. It was when I had time to slowly read and digest small bits at a time, reflecting and thinking it through that I realized what a gem this book is. It changed the way I look at space and made me more aware of its effect on people. A treasure to have when designing learning / collaborative spaces.

Pat East says

This book is a fairly great read if you want to have ideas on how to shake up your work space productively. While many of these changes do not require much in the way of resources, I would recommend only reading this book when you have a significant amount of space that can be experimented with immediately. I look forward to employing what I learned in this book at home and in the community.

Lindsey says

At first, I was a bit confused with the layout of this book. The book definitely lacks flow and just jumps from one idea to the next. Picking up the book to read from cover to cover, you end up scratching your head saying, "What am I doing here. What am I even reading here."

Then, you decide to pick up the book for ideas, inspiration, starting points. And suddenly, it makes sense. You suddenly see the ideas flowing from the pages and you see what is being done and immediately start thinking, "Now, where can I use this? Could this solve my problem here?"

This book has ideas. Ideas. Ideas. Ideas. It also contains much of the practical nuts and bolts of said ideas. Use foam cubes as short term seating that can be stacked interestingly and also used to build temporary divides in the room should those be needed. Great idea. And here's how you make that happen. Brilliant!

Now, not all of the projects or ideas are simple DIY projects. Yes, the basic gist is in the book, but there are some skills and some items I just don't have on hand to make some of these ideas a reality in my home. (AV carts, plexiglass, translucent polycarbonate, etc.) However, the book does include resources for where I can find such things. So, I'm not just left looking saying, "Oh that's nice." But saying, "It may be a bit out of my comfort zone, but I could acquire these parts and make that. Maybe."

It is definitely more geared toward business type spaces, but you could incorporate many of these ideas anywhere. Church. Home. School. Wherever. If you've got space issues or even are just trying to think outside of the box, this book is a good place to start to get your brain churning and moving to more unconventional solutions. (Plus, the pictures are pretty inspiring.)

Alejandro Perez says

Lots of great ideas, mostly for DIY's, but I was able to share a couple of great ones that got implemented in our workspace.

Pete Sena says

This quote from the Book says it all "space is the body language of an organization". As an entrepreneur of a growing business going from my dorm room to a offices in multiple the idea and understanding of how space physically can shape culture in your organization is absolutely critical. I highly recommend all my fellow entrepreneurs read this book and see how they can incorporate making and hacking into not just their product design and digital work but also their physical space. Def worth buying the physical copy as it makes a great reference guide that will withstand the test of time. For me this book represents an analog anthology of designing workspaces.